

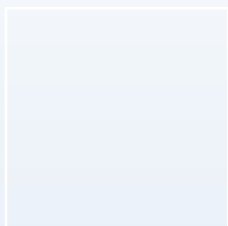


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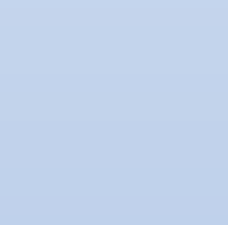
Issue 2019/10
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POLICY



BRIEF



GLOBALSTAT

21st Century Democracy in Europe

2-4 May 2019, Florence

Authors: Caterina Francesca Guidi, and Gaby Umbach

Data visualisation: Christian Dietrich

GLOBALSTAT

21ST CENTURY DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

DATA DOSSIER

INTRODUCTION

Things taken for granted become precious when we are about to lose them. This is the case of democracy in Europe and around the world today. Hence, we need to critically reflect on the future of the type of democracy we want in the 21st century. The European University Institute's *The State of the Union Conference 2019* (SOU) provides a much-needed opportunity to do so at European level.

After the end of World War II and the fall of the Iron Curtain, liberal democracy became the foundation of European societies and the European Union (EU). By the dawn of the 21st century, most EU Member States (MS) had a long-standing democratic tradition. Where this was not the case, citizens fought hard for liberal societies and democratic transition.

Liberal democracies protect individual freedoms, participatory rights, and the rule of law within societies. They guarantee representation, procedural equity, lawful decision-making, legitimate political action, accountable actors, impartial bureaucracies, and independent judiciaries and media.

Thus far the ideal. Two decades into the 21st century, we witness a decline in key democratic features in an increasing number of countries within Europe and around the world. Rules-based organisations and core institutions of liberal democracy are under siege. Populism is on the rise and identity politics divides societies into 'us and them'; politicisation accompanies this division, rendering politics confrontational and hard-line; patterns of authoritarian leadership appear and 'strong men' are back in politics. Truth and facts become strategic tools; ideology, 'post-factual evidence', and mis-

information mutate into weapons of mass distraction and disorientation. Legitimate online discourse is subverted by cyber threats and manipulation. In short, liberal democracy is in danger of losing its power to generate the consensus and compromises so vitally needed for the cohesion of our pluralistic societies.

At the same time, however, there is hope for democracy. Citizens actively make their voices heard. People want to have their say in politics, participate and interact with the political system also between general elections. Social movements are on the rise and strengthen civil society. Requests for deliberative democracy increase, and participatory practice supports de-politicisation and consensus-building, as two Irish referenda on highly contested topics have exemplified. Debunking becomes a central corrective instrument within the public debate, and post-factual argumentation is increasingly uncovered and denounced as such. Citizens feel more attached to the EU than ever before. European and global youth have mobilised to protect and shape their own future, and to demand their say in safeguarding the global commons.

This EUI SOU 2019 Data Dossier illustrates key trends in democratic transitions, political parties and elections, inclusive and sustainable democracies, trust and the Single Market, as well as EU external action and global governance through facts and figures. It has been created by the *GlobalStat* team to inform the discussion about the state of democracy within the EU. It seeks to inspire reflection on past democratic trends and on trajectories for possible futures for democracy in the 21st century.

GABY UMBACH
GlobalStat Director

DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS IN EUROPE

Among representative democracies, liberal democracies stand out for their participatory patterns, the protection of individual freedoms – including those of most vulnerable groups – and the rule of law. This type of democracy prevails among EU MS and is especially strong in Scandinavian countries, while some MS in Central and Eastern Europe are currently facing challenges to their liberal democratic practice.

As a result, and regardless of the overall good track record and their long-standing tradition, democratic politics within the EU are currently being challenged by bottom-up, grassroots protest movements and new political parties. Consequently, liberal democracy is increasingly contested, and various authoritarian patterns of leadership are appearing within the EU and beyond.

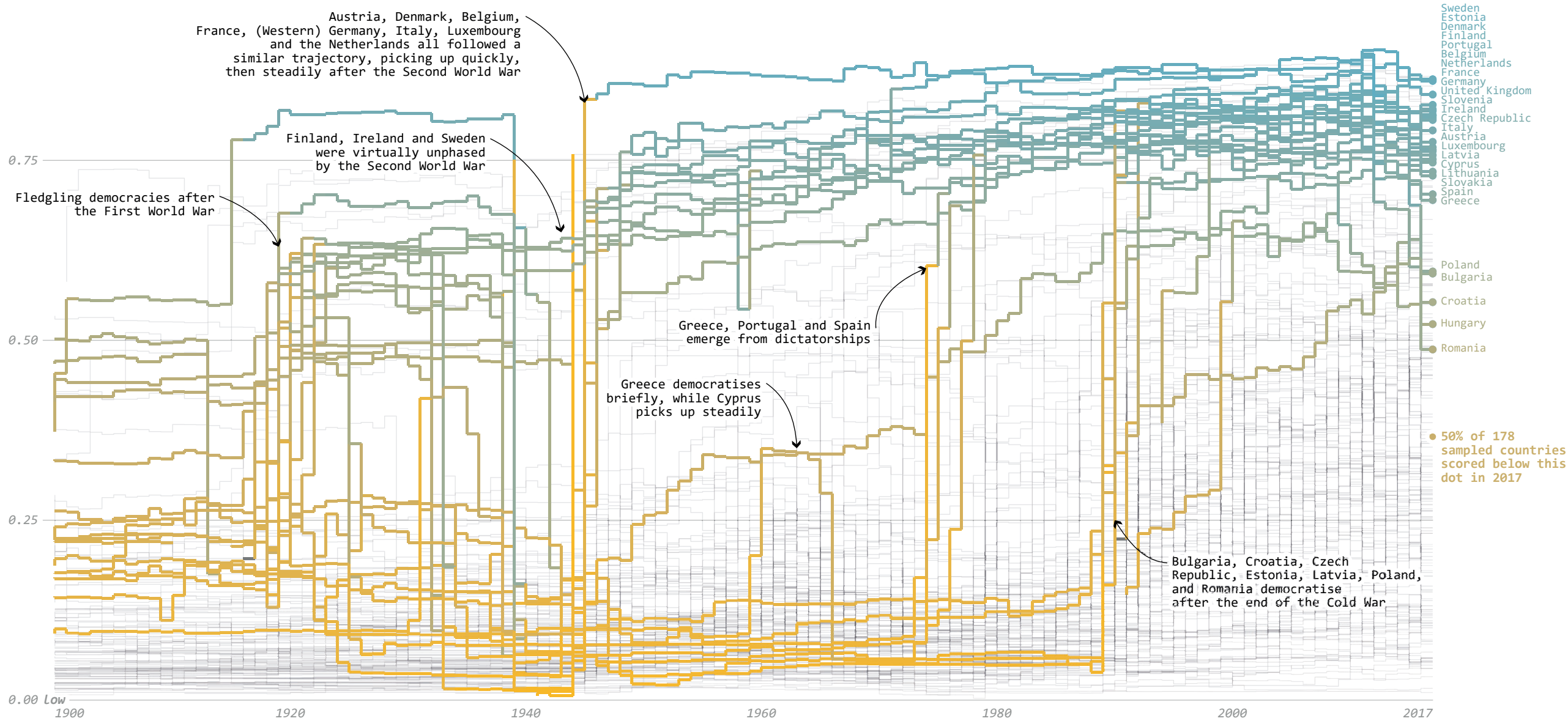

17
parliamentary democracies

among the 28 Member States of the EU.
4 (semi-)presidential systems,
7 constitutional monarchies

TO WHAT EXTENT IS LIBERAL DEMOCRACY ACHIEVED?

V-DEM SCORE, 1900-2017

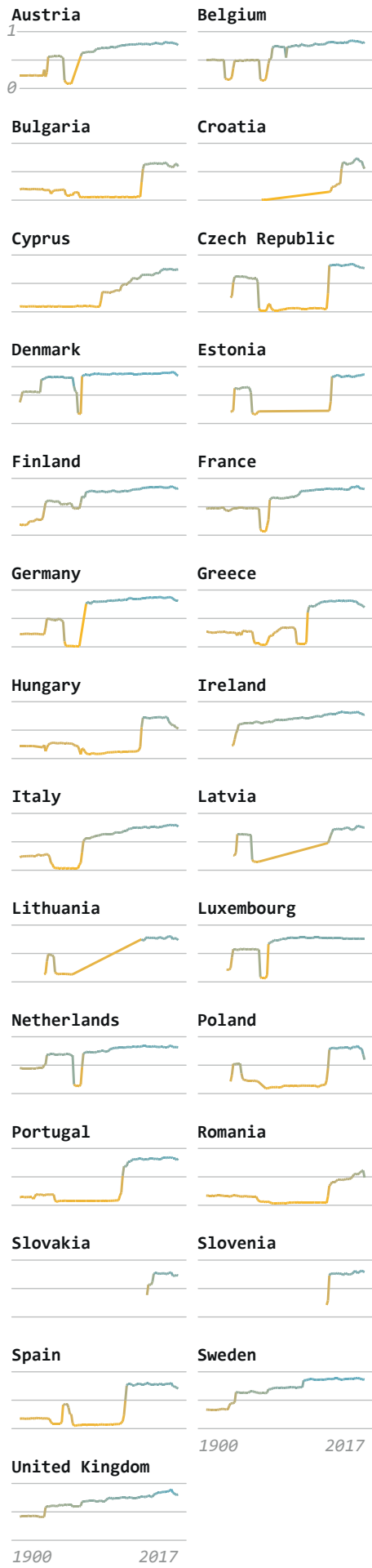
1.00 high // V-DEM Liberal democracy score



Source: V-Dem, Varieties of Democracy data, (2019)

THE SHAPE OF RISE AND DECLINE

V-DEM SCORE, 1900-2017



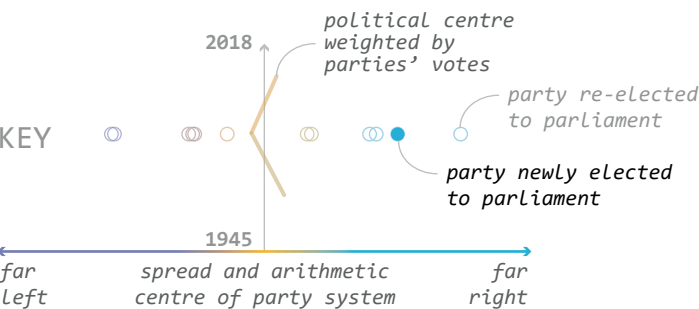
Source: V-Dem, (2019)

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS

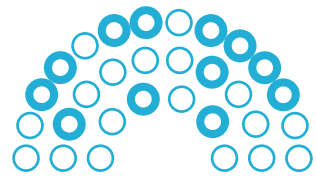
POLITICAL CENTRES AND NEW PARTIES

ELECTIONS SINCE 1945

Open democratic societies rely on legitimate and accountable political institutions and on democratic elections that allow citizens to express their preferences with regard to politics. In view of the 2019 European Elections – as with democratic elections and participatory processes in general – ensuring free and fair democratic voting and practice is hence imperative. This even more so against the backdrop of a growing electoral volatility over the past two decades, in which the stability of the West European party systems eroded due to new political parties and political protagonists emerging at the fringes of party systems.



As regards citizens' preferences for EU politics, their attachment to the Union has increased over the past eight years from 62% in 2010 to 70% in 2018: more Europeans than ever before perceive themselves as EU citizens. Moreover, 52% of EU citizens have trust in the EU, showing that they identify the EU as a beacon of freedom that guarantees the possibility of travelling, studying and working freely within its territory. Yet, this positive perception has so far not translated into European Elections turnout: from the highest participation rate of 61.99% in the European elections of 1979, turnout has constantly decreased, leading to the lowest rate ever registered, with 42.61% in the last elections of 2014.



13 national parliaments

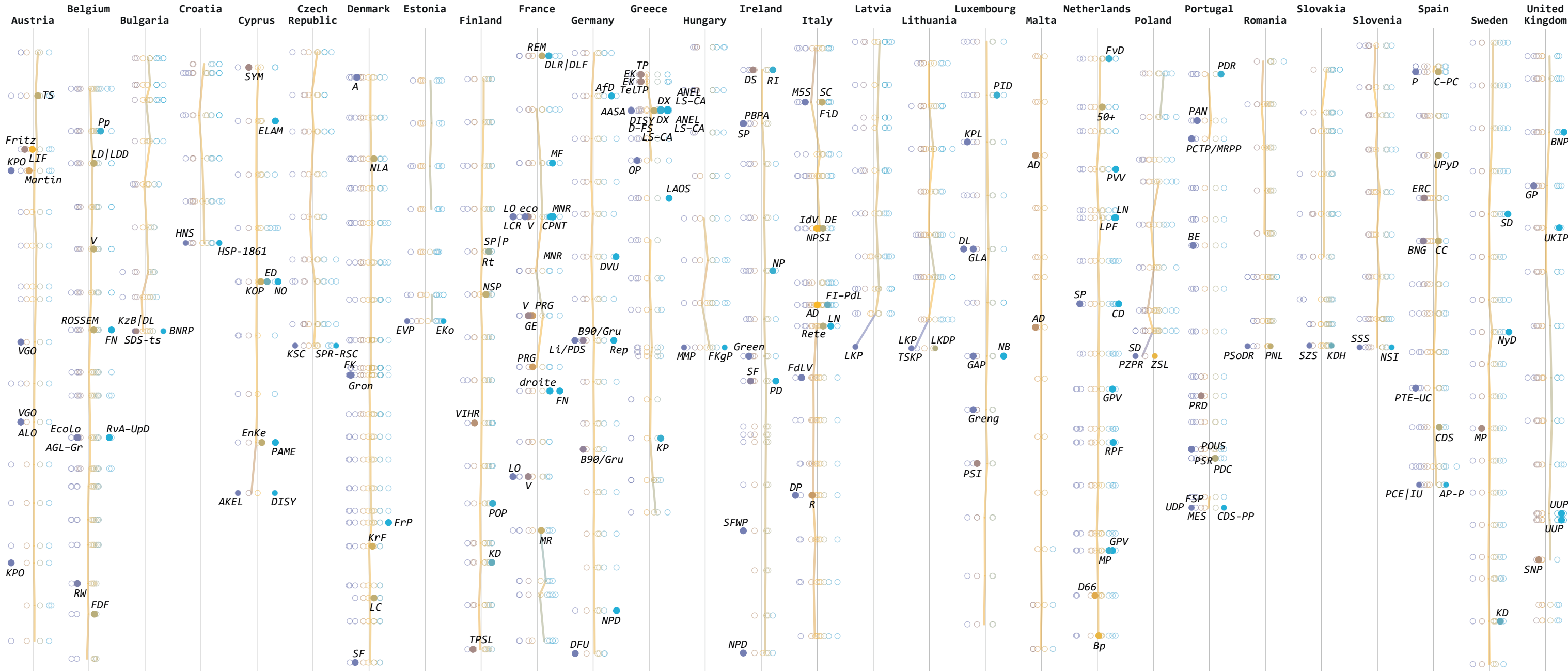
in EU Member States moved towards the right in their last elections, as opposed to 11 parliaments moving further left



almost 80% of those below 30 years

in Austria, Italy and Malta voted at any level of government in the past three years, as opposed to 35 to 40% of Belgians, Irish and Luxembourgers

Source: Eurobarometer, (2018)

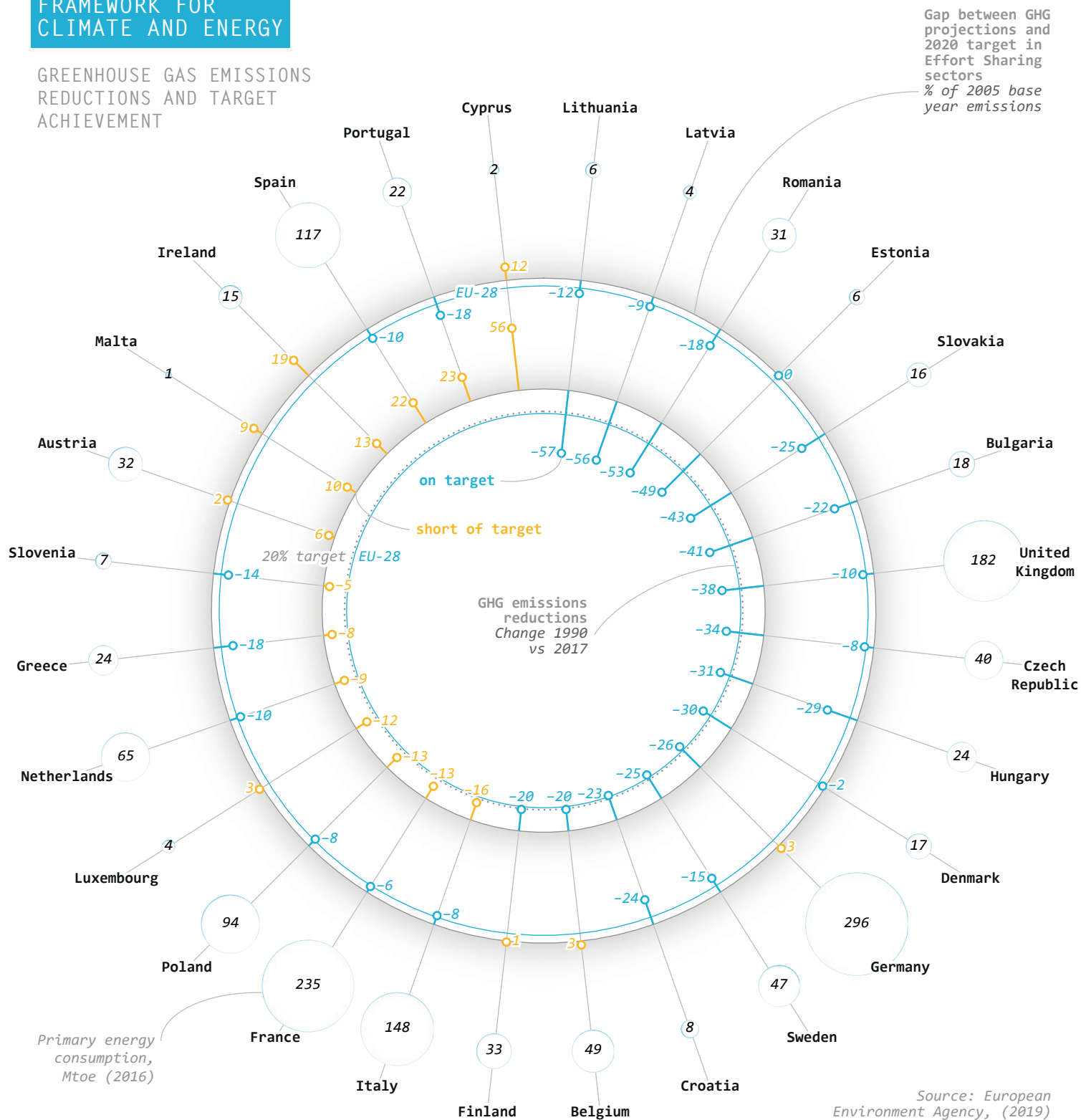


Source: Emanuele, V. (2016), Dataset of New Parties and Party System Innovation in Western Europe since 1945, Centro Italiano Studi Elettorali (CISE), (2019)

INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

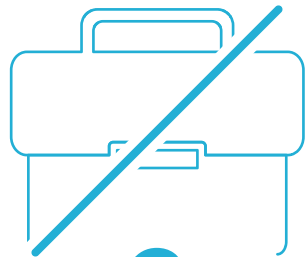
FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND TARGET ACHIEVEMENT



Young Europeans are growing up in difficult times. The financial, economic and migration crises, coupled with climate change, are deepening the intergenerational gap in opportunities and responsibilities. Any sustainable democracy depends on the material and immaterial resources that are passed from the present to the next generation. To preserve planetary resources and to combat climate change, the EU aims at a climate-neutral circular economy by 2050. Reduction of resource input, reusage of material and recycling of waste are key elements of European climate neutrality.

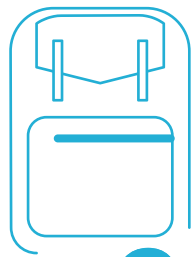
Regardless of economic and labour market recovery, the EU still faces strong differences between MS in terms of youth unemployment and economically inactive young people. Mitigation options could include allocating shares of MS European Social Fund resources to especially target structural reforms for young people.



9 percentage points (pp)

Within the EU-28 youth unemployment decreased by almost 9 pp from a peak of 23.7% in 2013 to 15.2% in July 2018

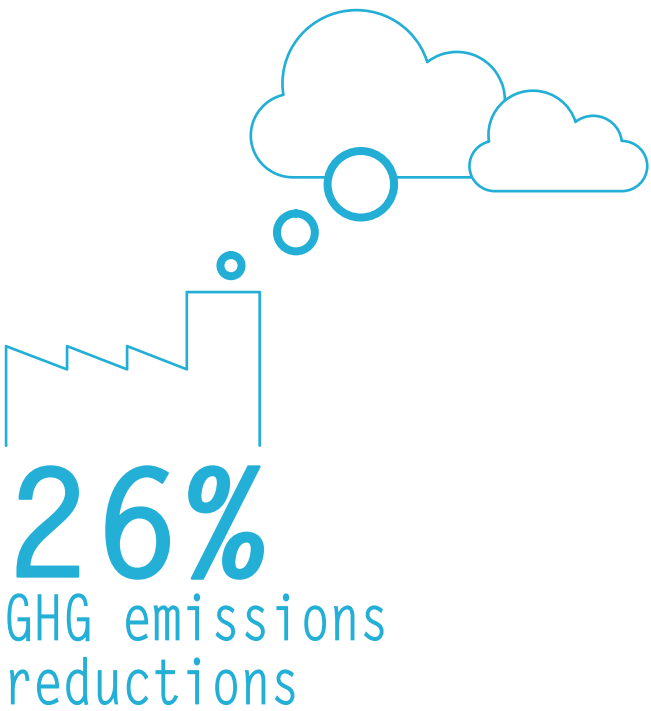
Source: Eurostat, (2019)



6.2% national youth unemployment rate

in Germany is the lowest in the EU in 2018, followed by the Czech Republic (6.7%) and the Netherlands (7.2%). It has risen to critical 39.9% in Greece, 34.3% in Spain and 32.2% Italy

Source: Eurostat, (2019)



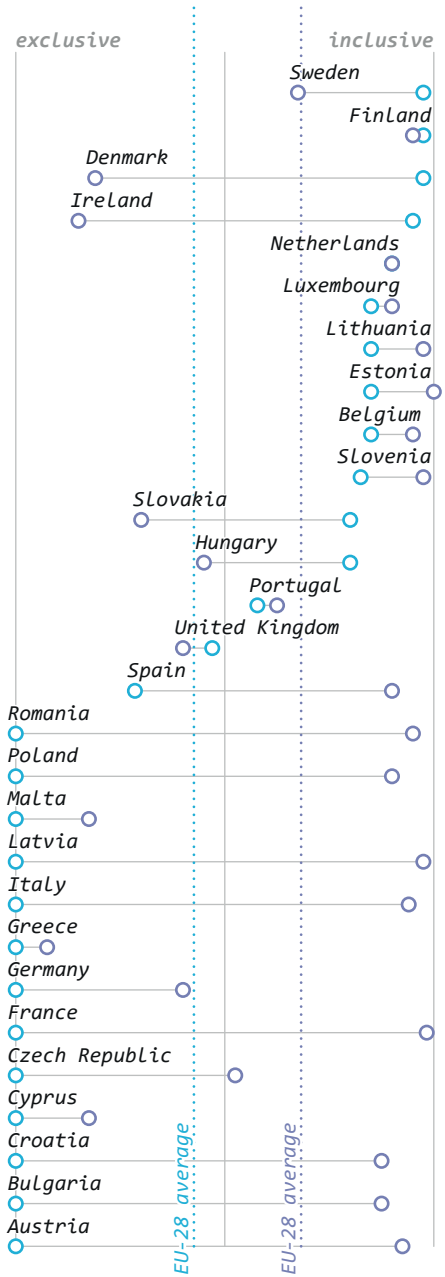
below 1990 levels by 2020 and 32% by 2030, thus falling short of the self-set goal of 40 % reduction by 2030

The future of the EU strongly depends on its youth and on migration. Both have important effects on the intergenerational equity and political participation within the EU. One of the most direct ways of promoting political participation of migrant populations is granting them the right to vote. Yet, so far, no European Member State grants national voting rights to all foreign residents. EU citizens can vote in local elections in other EU MS. Only 12 MS grant local voting rights to all foreign residents.

VOTING RIGHTS

ELECTORAL LAWS PER EU MEMBER STATE

- third country nationals in local elections
- non-resident citizens in national elections



Source: GlobalCit, Electoral Law Indicators, (2019)

TRUST AND THE SINGLE MARKET

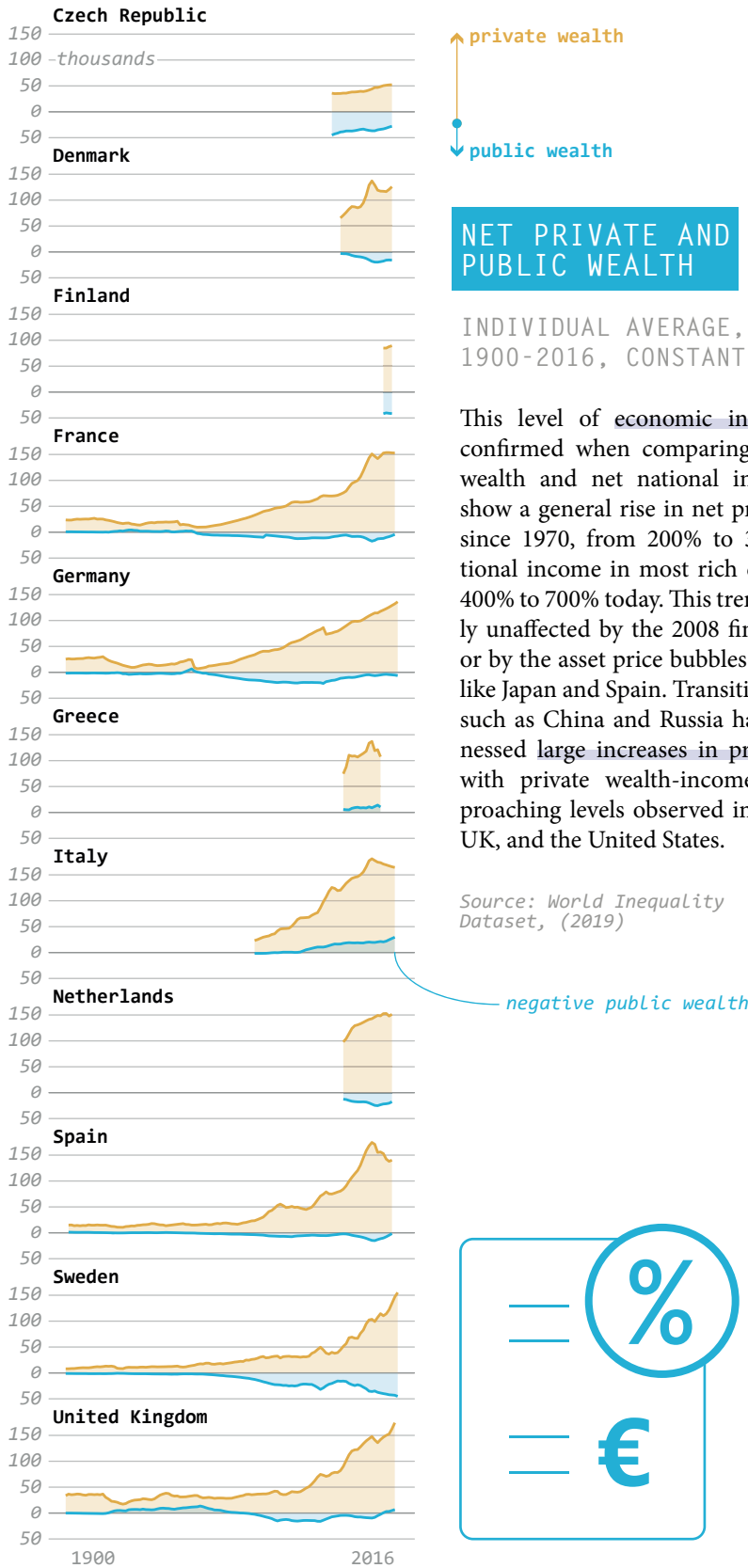
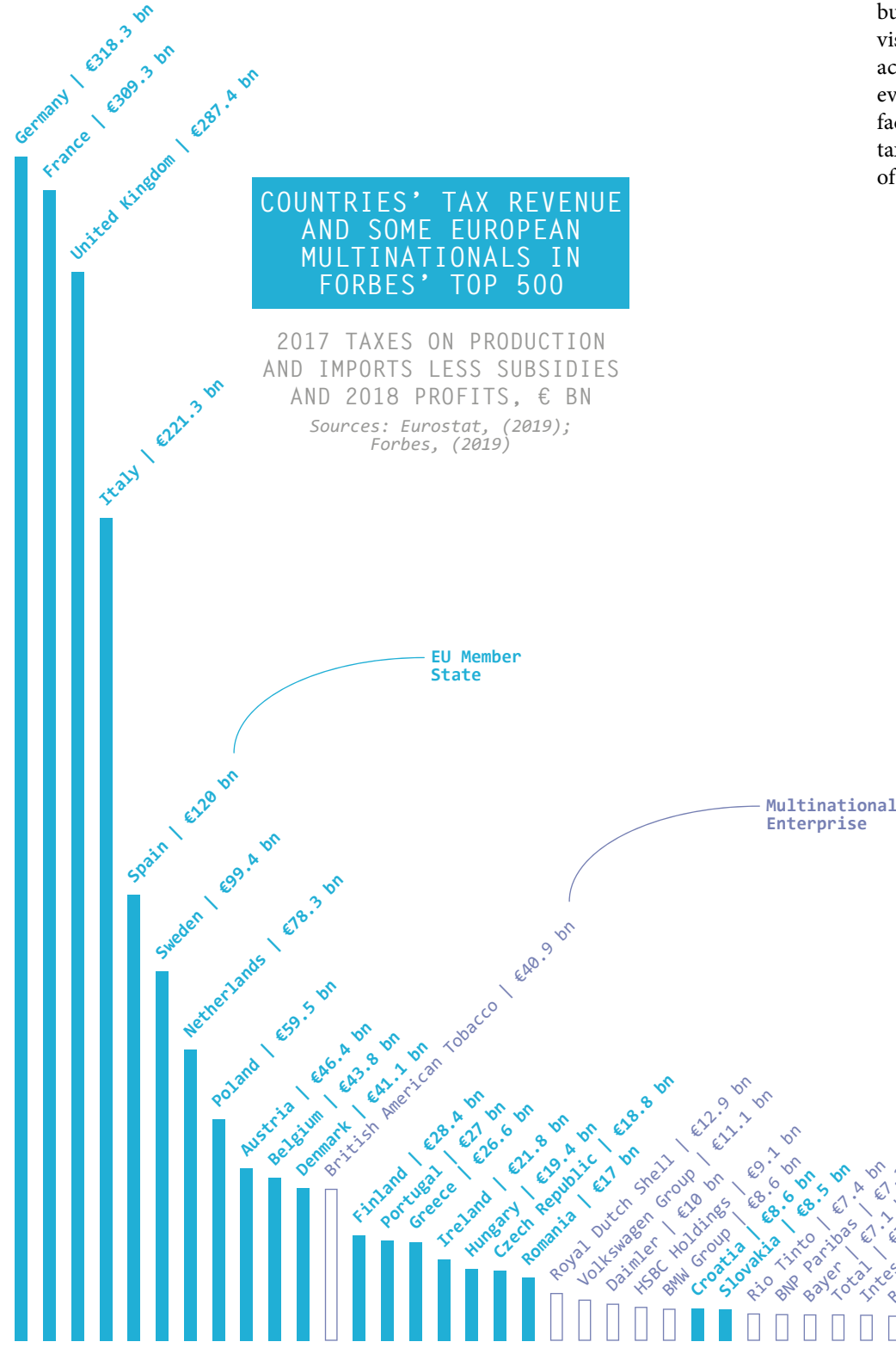
The creation of the Single Market is one of the EU's major achievements and best assets within economic globalisation. The concentration of economic and financial power is still a threat to global economic equity that favours multinationals in only some countries.

The global financial and economic crises also revealed weaknesses in the economic governance of the EU and in the Euro. They triggered a retrenchment of cross-border banking and financial activities, and led to an intensified debate about risk-sharing and risk-reduction initiatives within the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). While related reforms have built-up a common regulatory and supervisory framework, banking and financial activities are still regulated nationally, even within the Euro area. As stabilising factor for the EMU and the Euro, national tax revenue accounts for the main share of public resources.

COUNTRIES' TAX REVENUE AND SOME EUROPEAN MULTINATIONALS IN FORBES' TOP 500

2017 TAXES ON PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS LESS SUBSIDIES AND 2018 PROFITS, € BN

Sources: Eurostat, (2019); Forbes, (2019)



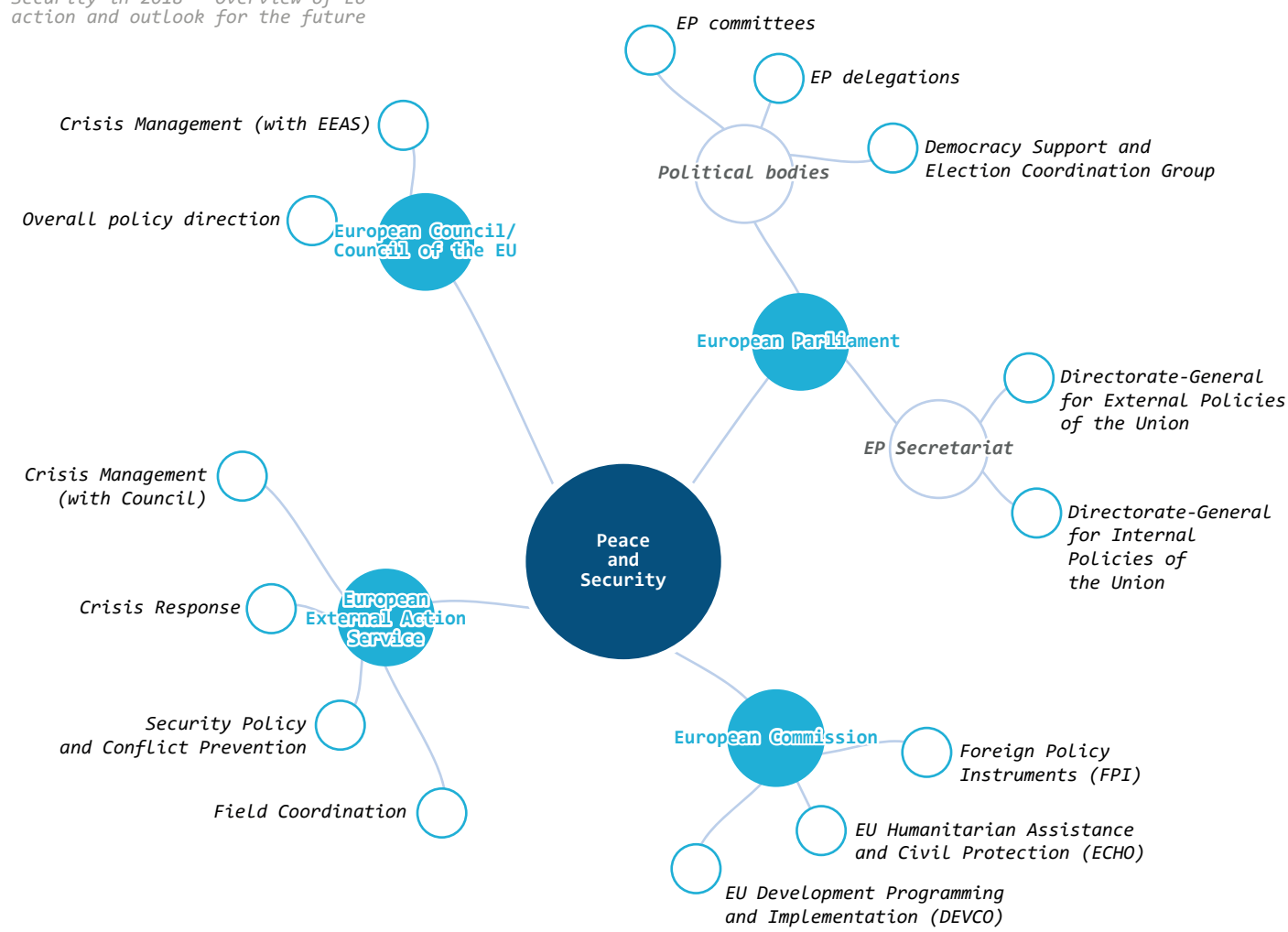
40.2 percent

of EU-28 GDP equaled taxes applied to capital, labour and consumption, as well as compulsory social contributions taxes in 2017

EU EXTERNAL ACTION AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

WHO DOES WHAT IN THE EU INSTITUTIONS?

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service (2019), Peace and Security in 2018 - Overview of EU action and outlook for the future



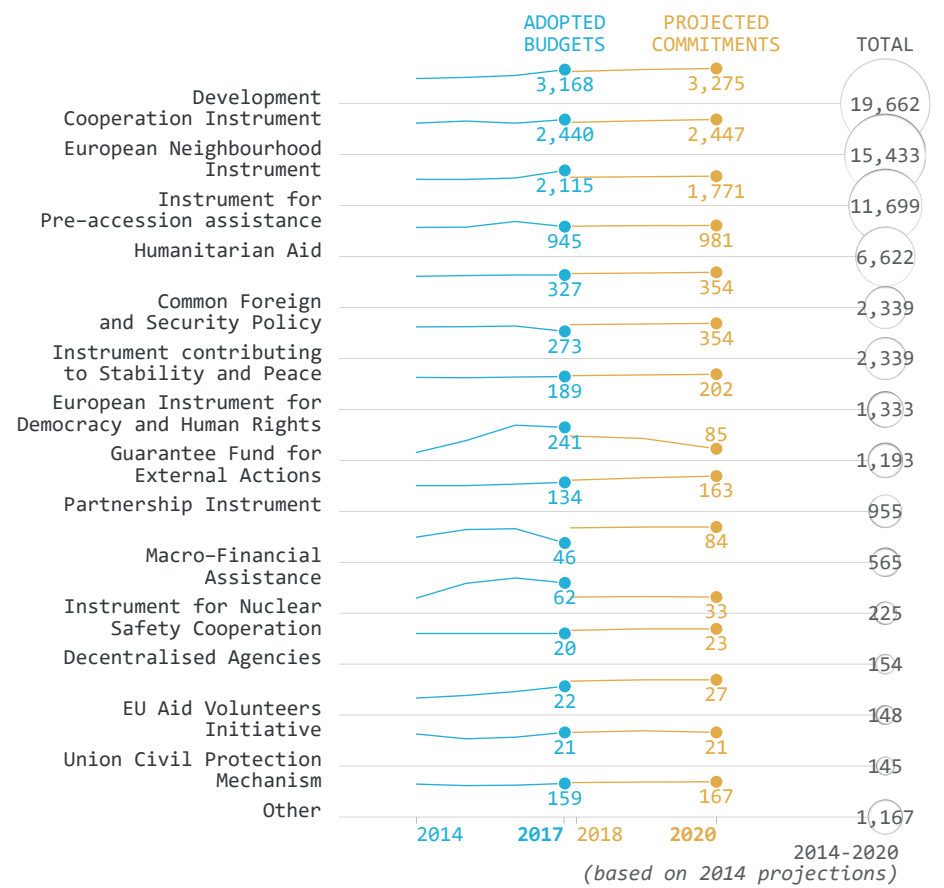
6%
Within the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, 6% of the EU budget support 'Global Europe' activities

Ever since the Lisbon treaty, EU external action has gained in importance. In light of the global challenges lying ahead, democratising the policy field features high within the political debate. Current EU decision-making in external action displays multi-layered, inter-institutional dynamics that reflect its connected, complex foreign policy issues. The EU seeks to improve the effectiveness of its external action and its consistency with EU values, as prerequisite for a sustainable contribution to peace and security around the world.

MFF HEADING 4 OVERVIEW

2014-2020, € MILLION

Funding for 'Global Europe' activities supports joint efforts of EU MS and EU institutions, each of which relates to the peace and security agenda and has a specific geographic or thematic focus in order to maximise impact and visibility of EU external action.

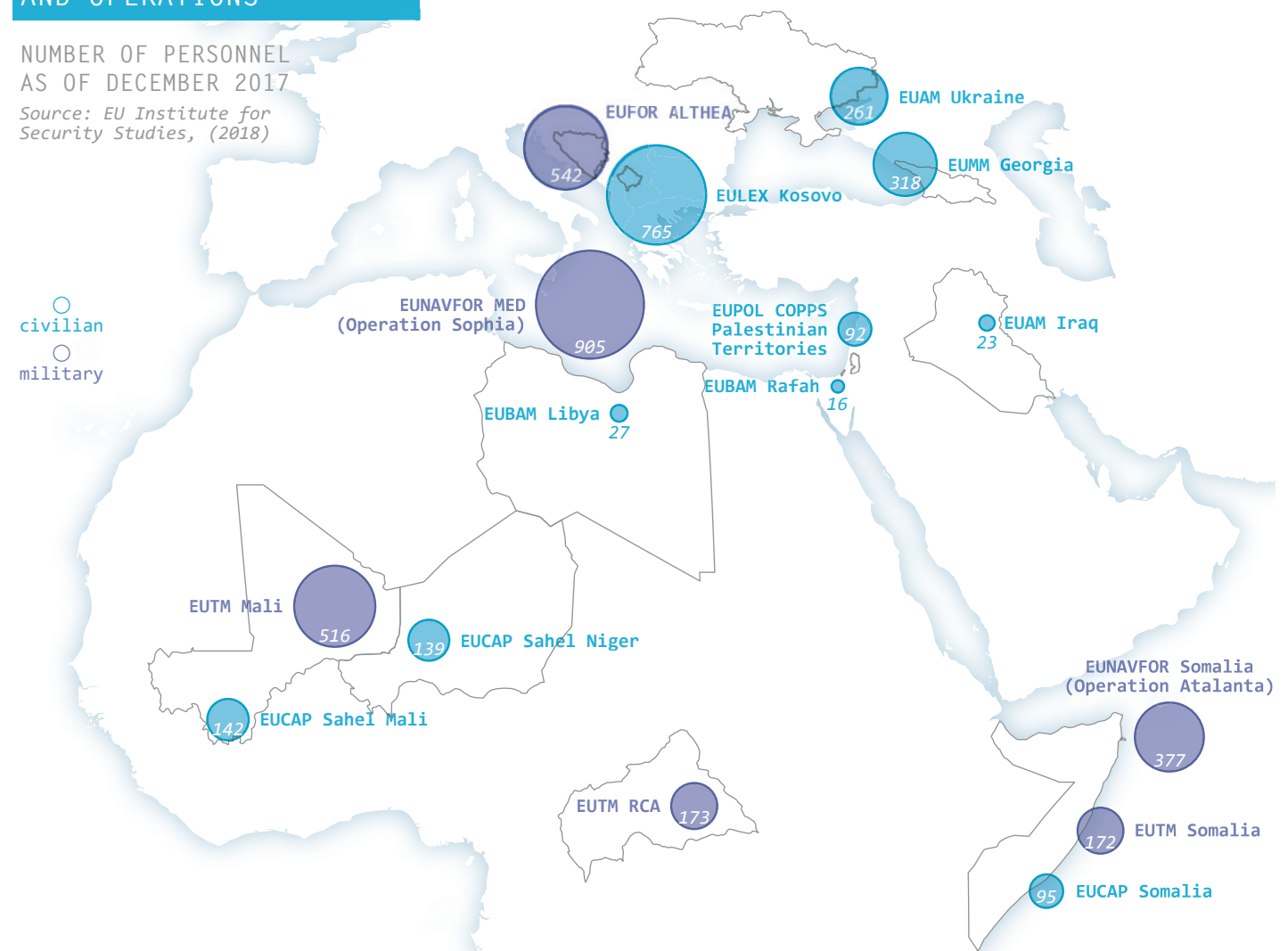


Source: EU Institute for Security Studies, (2018)

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AS OF DECEMBER 2017

Source: EU Institute for Security Studies, (2018)



GlobalStat is a public information tool for users around the world that offers a large amount of statistical data free of charge from international sources for all 193 UN member states, from 1960 to present day. It focuses on the economic, environmental, political, social, and cultural performance of nations and its ultimate aim is to provide information about the way human beings live, the freedoms they enjoy and the limitations they face.

ABOUT GLOBALSTAT

Today’s increasing relevance of statistics translates only slowly into a transparent visibility of data within the public domain. In order to close the gap between data proliferation and their actual use, new tools are needed to improve the clarity and speed with which statistical data can be accessed as important independent sources of information. GlobalStat takes up this challenge.

It is structured in 12 thematic and three horizontal areas. Thematic areas are divided into sub-themes that include statistical data series. Horizontal areas offer insight into data on cross-cutting aspects of sustainable livelihood, national wealth, human well-being and quality of life. GlobalStat currently contains over 600 indicators and is designed to grow over time.

DEMOGRAPHICS (Status quo & Challenges)	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRADE (Diversity & Catch Up)	ENERGY (Finite Resources & Renewables)	ENVIRONMENT (Conditions & Threats)
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES & STRUCTURE (Texture & Relations)	FOOD, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES (Patterns & Challenges)	FREEDOM, CONFLICTS & RISKS (Crisis & Perils)	GOVERNANCE (Institutions & Structures)
HEALTH & LIVING CONDITIONS (Well-being & its Fundaments)	HUMAN & SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT (Quality & Features)	HUMAN MOBILITY (Migration & its Background)	TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (Participation & Progress)
GLOBAL TRENDS (Prospects in Key Areas)			
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD (Sustainable Development in the Light of Human Activities)			
PROSPERITY OF NATIONS & HUMAN WELL-BEING (Beyond GDP – Indices' scores)			

By presenting data as diverse as income distribution, water resources, migration, land use, food production, nutrition, or life expectancy, GlobalStat contributes to a better understanding of the potential interrelations between human development and globalisation trends. All data and metadata are accessible free of charge for personal information purposes and research.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Since October 2015, a partnership between GlobalStat and the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) offers an ever-increasing portfolio of data-based services and publications to GlobalStat users and Members of the European Parliament (EP). Since September 2016, GlobalStat is also integrated as the new ‘Statistics Warehouse’ resource into the EPRS’s intranet in order to provide direct access to GlobalStat for EPRS clients.

A cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) started in mid-2016 and is ongoing with the creation of new GlobalStat website with SDMX updates and data visualisation tools.

TIMELINE

September 2011	Partnership between the European University Institute’s Global Governance Programme (GGP) and the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation
2011	Gaby Umbach is the Founding Director of GlobalStat
May 2015	Official launch of the GlobalStat website
October 2015	GlobalStat starts a collaboration with the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)
May 2016	Launch of joint publication series with EPRS
June 2016	GlobalStat is embedded in the EPRS website
June 2016	GlobalStat starts a collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
March 2018	GlobalStat becomes official supporting partner of the EU’s State of the Union Conference
January 2019	Launch of upgraded GlobalStat

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Director: Gaby Umbach
Research Associates and Fellows: Caterina Francesca Guidi (Project Coordinator); former team members: Laura Bartolini, Luca Mancini, Laura Puccio, Martiño Rubal Maseda, Marta Russo, Trajche Panov
Database development GlobalStat 1.0: Copyright © European University Institute and Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos

CONTACTS:

European University Institute
Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies
Villa Schifanoia - Via Boccaccio 121 - I-50133 Florence
globalstat@eui.eu
www.eui.eu
@GlobalStat_eu

Global Governance Programme
Robert Schuman Centre
for Advanced Studies

European University Institute
Via Boccaccio, 121
50133 Florence
Italy

Contact GGP:
GlobalGovernance.Programme@EUI.eu

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), created in 1992 and directed by Professor Brigid Laffan, aims to develop inter-disciplinary and comparative research on the major issues facing the process of European integration, European societies and Europe's place in 21st century global politics. The Centre is home to a large post-doctoral programme and hosts major research programmes, projects and data sets, in addition to a range of working groups and ad hoc initiatives. The research agenda is organised around a set of core themes and is continuously evolving, reflecting the changing agenda of European integration, the expanding membership of the European Union, developments in Europe's neighbourhood and the wider world.

The Global Governance Programme

The Global Governance Programme (GGP) is research turned into action. It provides a European setting to conduct research at the highest level and promote synergies between the worlds of research and policy-making, to generate ideas and identify creative innovative solutions to global challenges. The Programme is part of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute, a world-reknowned academic institution. It receives financial support from the European Commission through the European Union budget. Complete information on our activities can be found online at: globalgovernanceprogramme.eui.eu

Views expressed in this publication reflect the opinion of individual authors and not those of the European University Institute or the European Commission.

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